



**American
Red Cross**

Ventura County
836 Calle Plano
Camarillo, CA 93012

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
NEWS RELEASE

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**RED CROSS HOSTS DISASTER TRAINING CLASSES IN RESPONSE
TO THOMAS FIRE**

Ventura, Calif., December 15, 2017 — As the American Red Cross response to the devastating California wildfires continue, the need for trained volunteers grows. The Red Cross is launching a disaster training event that will prepare new volunteers to serve in vital disaster relief roles in response to the Thomas Fire relief efforts. Community members who want to help can attend classes this weekend to become a trained Red Cross volunteer.

WHAT: Disaster training classes will cover the following areas: Logistics, Sheltering, Feeding, and Casework

WHEN: Friday, December 15 through Sunday, December 17

WHERE: Ventura County Community Foundation
4001 Mission Oaks Blvd
Camarillo, CA 93012

HOW: Space for this Disaster Training is limited. To attend please register online as a volunteer redcross.org/volunteer. After registering, you will receive an email with details on how to reserve a spot!

The Red Cross is preparing to transition into recovery efforts as evacuation orders begin to lift. Disaster recovery is often measured in months and years so the Red Cross will need a trained workforce to provide hope, comfort, and one-on-one support as the community recovers.

"We are always looking for new people who are interested in supporting their communities in times of disaster and beyond. This disaster training event has been set up to jump start our new volunteers on their Red Cross Journey," said Red Cross Executive Director, Kimberly Coley.

The Red Cross delivers help to whoever needs it regardless of race, religion, sexual orientation or citizenship status. The Red Cross is a charity, not a government agency, and people who have disaster-caused needs do not need to be American citizens to access Red Cross services.

"It's through the efforts of our amazing volunteers that we can do extraordinary things," said Coley, "The Red Cross continues to work around the clock to provide shelter, food, comfort and other emergency support to victims of these disasters. This vital work is made possible by people like you who contribute their unique backgrounds, talents, and skill levels."

"We're grateful for the efforts of The Red Cross and all the volunteers supporting our community," said Vanessa Bechtel, CEO of the Ventura County Community Foundation. "We're proud that our philanthropic community has come together with over \$300,000 to support The Red Cross and we are determined to do more. We're also delighted to host the volunteer training in our building with our partners at the Pharos Center for Innovation."

How to Help

The Red Cross is able to provide disaster relief services during wildfire season thanks to the generosity of the community. Call, click or text to give: call 1-800 RED CROSS, visit redcross.org, or text REDCROSS to 90999 to make a \$10 donation.

Follow the local Red Cross on [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#) for additional updates. Visit our website at redcross.org/centralcalifornia

About the American Red Cross:

The American Red Cross shelters, feeds and provides emotional support to victims of disasters; supplies about 40 percent of the nation's blood; teaches skills that save lives; provides international humanitarian aid; and supports military members and their families. The Red Cross is a not-for-profit organization that depends on volunteers and the generosity of the American public to perform its mission. For more information, please visit redcross.org or cruzrojaamericana.org, or visit us on Twitter at @RedCross.